



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,625	01/31/2005	Takashi Imoto	03500-017510	1853
5514 7590 08/20/2008 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112				
EXAMINER ZHANG, FAN				
ART UNIT 2625		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/20/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/522,625

Applicant(s)

IMOTO, TAKASHI

Examiner

FAN ZHANG

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/31/2005, 03/16/2006, 08/14/2007
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Inventor's Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) and (e) that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) and (e) as being anticipated by Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790).

Regarding claim 1, Nishiyama teaches: A notifying method of notifying a user of information regarding an apparatus in an information processing apparatus which can simultaneously provide an environment, as a user session, which can activate a user's desired program to each of a plurality of users [p0067-p0070], comprising: an obtaining step of obtaining the information regarding the apparatus [p0066, fig. 12: unit S42]; a specifying step of specifying the user session which uses a display unit of the information processing apparatus [p0067, fig. 12: unit S46, p0067, fig. 13: units S53, S55, and S56]; and an activating step of activating a display program for displaying the information obtained in said obtaining step by the user session specified in said specifying step [p0072-p0075, fig. 13: unit S57, figs. 14-17].

Regarding claim 2, Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising: a receiving step of receiving existence information showing that the display program has been activated from the display program [p0072-p0075, figs. 14-17]; an activation discriminating step of discriminating whether the display program has been activated or not on the basis of said existence information [fig. 13: units S52 and S54]; and a transmitting step of transmitting the information obtained in said obtaining step to the display program in accordance with a discrimination result showing that the display program has been activated [fig. 13: units S53, S55-S57].

Regarding claim 3, Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of, if a plurality of display programs have been activated by the user session specified in said specifying step, finishing one of said plurality of display programs [figs. 4, 9, 12, and 13: END].

Regarding claim 4, Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, wherein said display program is a program for displaying information regarding a print job issued to a printing apparatus or information regarding a status of said printing apparatus [p0067].

Regarding claim 6, A method according to claim 1, further comprising: a necessity discriminating step of discriminating whether the information is information

which needs to be displayed or not on the basis of said information obtained in said obtaining step [fig. 13: units S52 and S54], and wherein the display program is activated by the user session specified in said specifying step in accordance with a discrimination result showing that the information is the information which needs to be displayed [fig. 13: units S53-57]. Also see [p0067-p0070].

Claim 11 has been analyzed and rejected with regard to claim 1.

Claim 12 has been analyzed and rejected with regard to claim 1 and in accordance with Nishiyama's further teaching on: A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for controlling a computer [p0088].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790).**

Regarding claim 5, Nishiyama teaches: A method according to claim 4, further comprising: a user specifying step of specifying the user corresponding to the user

session in which the display program has been activated; and an issuance discriminating step of discriminating whether the print job of the user specified in said user specifying step has been issued to said printing apparatus or not, and wherein if it is determined that said print job is not issued, said display program is not activated [p0074]. In Nishiyama's teaching, print jobs are divided between confidential and common. The confidential print display program will not be activated unless user specification and job issued by the user are confirmed. Although a common print status display program is activated, confidential print status display program is not activated as it is discriminated that Tanaka has not issued a print job as exemplified in p0074. However, all the print jobs can be converted to confidential status so that none of the display programs would be activated. Therefore, it would have been an obvious variation of Nishiyama's exemplification for an ordinary skilled in the art to apply confidential print status to all the print jobs so that none of the display programs will be activated when user does not issue a print job for the purpose of simplicity and less confusion.

5. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790) and in further view of Parry (US Pub: 2003/0077097).

Regarding claim 7, Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 1, further comprising: a condition obtaining step of obtaining condition information in which conditions in which the information regarding the apparatus is displayed and conditions

in which said information is not displayed have been described [fig. 13, p0067-p0070]. Nishiyama does not execute display based on the status of an apparatus. In the same field of endeavor, Parry teaches: a status discriminating step of discriminating whether the apparatus is in a status (normal or non-error status) where it is necessary to display the information regarding the apparatus or not on the basis of said condition information and the information obtained in said obtaining step; and a step of finishing the display program in accordance with a discrimination result showing that the apparatus is not in said status [p0041, figs 3. Error message is displayed when the apparatus is not in normal status.]. Discriminating the status of an apparatus to activate a display program has been well known and practiced in the art as prescribed by Parry. Therefore, given Nishiyama's teaching on user condition and Parry's disclosing on apparatus status for activating a display program, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled in the art to combine the teaching of the two to display printing information when both user condition and apparatus status are met for providing user relevant error messages on the related printing jobs.

Claim 8 has been analyzed and rejected with regard to claim 7. (No message is sent to a computer for displaying when it is determined that there is no error associated with printing apparatus [fig. 13, p0067-p0070].)

6. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiyama (US Pub: 2002/0036790) and in further view of Sugaya (US Pub: 2001/0015812).

Regarding claim 9, Nishiyama teaches: A notifying method of notifying the user of information regarding a printing apparatus in an information processing apparatus which can simultaneously provide an environment, as a user session, which can activate a user's desired program to each of a plurality of users [p0067-p0070], comprising: a step of transferring a print job formed by a first information processing apparatus to the printing apparatus [p0039, p0045]; an obtaining step of obtaining the information regarding the printing apparatus [p0066, fig. 12: unit S42]; a discriminating step of discriminating whether the information obtained in said obtaining step is information which needs to be displayed onto a display unit of said first information processing apparatus or not [p0067-p0070, fig. 13: units S52 and S54]; a specifying step of, if it is determined that the information is the information which needs to be displayed, specifying the user session which uses the display unit of said first information processing apparatus [p0067, fig. 13: units S53, S55, and S56]; and an activating step of, if it is determined that the information is the information which needs to be displayed, activating a display program for displaying the information obtained in said obtaining step by the user session specified in said specifying step [fig. 13: unit 57, p0072-p0075, figs. 14-17]. Nishiyama does not include a second information processing apparatus for displaying print job information. In the same field of endeavor, Sugaya teaches a printer server as the second information processing apparatus [fig. 2:

unit 2001] that connects to both a first information processing apparatus [fig. 2: unit 2000] and a printing apparatus [fig. 2: unit 1000]. It serves as a data processing and transmission source and includes a display unit capable for displaying print job information [fig. 2, unit 22, p0140, p0060, p0072, p0073]. Having an additional information processing apparatus for transferring and displaying a print job has been well known and practiced in the art as prescribed by Sugaya. Therefore, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled in the art to modify Nishiyama's teaching to introduce a second information processing apparatus such as a printer server for transferring print jobs and displaying processing results in order to provide a backup unit and improve overall process efficiency.

Regarding claim 10, the rationale applied to the rejection of claim 9 has been incorporated herein. Nishiyama further teaches: A method according to claim 9, further comprising a transmitting step of transmitting the information obtained in said obtaining step to at least one of the display programs activated by said first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus [fig. 13: unit S57, p0070].

Contact

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fan Zhang whose telephone number is (571) 270-3751. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Fan Zhang/

Patent Examiner